

Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows. The following is a complete listing of the claims that replaces all previous versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing an amount of a first security available to an investor for borrow, the first security issued by a first entity, the method comprising:

by a second entity,

purchasing a first quantity of the first security;

entering into a forward purchase contract with the first entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the first security to the first entity; and

lending a third quantity of the first security to the investor.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the first security includes purchasing the first quantity of the first security from the first entity.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the first security includes purchasing the first quantity of the first security from an intermediary.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the first security includes purchasing common stock.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein purchasing the first quantity of the first security includes purchasing the first quantity of the first security for a first price, and wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes obligating the second entity to subsequently deliver the second quantity of the first security to the first entity for the first price.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a quantity of the first security equal to the first quantity to the first entity.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes entering into the forward purchase contract when the first quantity of the first security is purchased.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes the second entity receiving a first payment before a settlement date of the forward purchase contract.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the second entity receiving the first payment includes the second entity receiving the first payment when the forward purchase contract is entered into.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the second entity receiving the first payment includes the second entity receiving a payment equal to a sale price of the second quantity of the first security.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to pay the first entity an a first amount equal to a sum of:
a total of any distributions paid on the first security from the date of formation of the forward purchase contract until the settlement date of the forward purchase contract; and
a total of any payments the second entity receives for lending the third quantity of the first security to the investor.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to pay the first entity a second amount equal to a total of any distributions paid on the first security from the date of formation of the forward purchase contract until the settlement date of the forward purchase contract.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the forward purchase contract permits the second entity to pay at least a portion of the second amount with stock.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to pay the first entity a third amount equal to a total of any payments the second entity receives for lending the third quantity of the first security to the investor.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the forward purchase contract permits the second entity to pay at least a portion of the third amount with stock.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to fulfill the forward purchase contract by a settlement date that is one of a maturity date of a second security issued by the first entity, a put date of the second security and a call date of the second security.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein lending the third quantity of the first security to the investor includes lending at least one of the first and second quantities of the first security to the investor.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein lending the third quantity of the first security to the investor includes lending the third quantity of the first security to the

investor when the first quantity of the first security is purchased and the forward purchase contract is entered into.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein lending the third quantity of the first security to the investor includes lending the third quantity of the first security to the investor after the first quantity of the first security is purchased and the forward purchase contract is entered into.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the second entity underwriting an issuance of a second security issued by the first entity.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the second security has at least one of a maturity date, a call date, and a put date that coincides with a settlement date of the forward purchase contract.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21-22, wherein the second security comprises a convertible security selected from the group comprising a convertible bond security and a convertible preferred stock security.

24-33. (Canceled)

34. (New) A method for increasing an amount of a first security available to an investor for borrow, the method comprising:

by a first entity,

issuing a first quantity of the first security, wherein the first quantity of the first security is purchased by a second entity; and

entering into a forward purchase contract with the second entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the first security to the first entity by a settlement date, wherein the settlement date is a maturity date of a second security issued by the first entity.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein issuing the first quantity of the first security includes issuing the first quantity of the first security to the second entity.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein issuing the first quantity of the first security includes issuing common stock.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein issuing the first quantity of the first security includes issuing the first quantity of the first security for a first price, and wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes obligating the second entity to subsequently deliver the second quantity of the first security to the first entity for the first price.

38. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the second security comprises a convertible security selected from the group comprising a convertible bond security and a convertible preferred stock security.

39. (New) A method for increasing an amount of a first security available to an investor for borrow, the method comprising:

by a first entity,

issuing a first quantity of the first security, wherein the first quantity of the first security is purchased by a second entity; and

entering into a forward purchase contract with the second entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the first security to the first entity by a settlement date, wherein the settlement date is a put date of a second security issued by the first entity.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein issuing the first quantity of the first security includes issuing common stock.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein issuing the first quantity of the first security includes issuing the first quantity of the first security for a first price, and wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes obligating the second entity to subsequently deliver the second quantity of the first security to the first entity for the first price.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the second security comprises a convertible security selected from the group comprising a convertible bond security and a convertible preferred stock security.

43. (New) A method for increasing an amount of a first security available to an investor for borrow, the method comprising:

by a first entity,

issuing a first quantity of the first security, wherein the first quantity of the first security is purchased by a second entity; and

entering into a forward purchase contract with the second entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the first security to the first entity by a settlement date, wherein the settlement date is a call date of a second security issued by the first entity.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein issuing the first quantity of the first security includes issuing common stock.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein issuing the first quantity of the first security includes issuing the first quantity of the first security for a first price, and wherein entering into the forward purchase contract includes obligating the second entity to subsequently deliver the second quantity of the first security to the first entity for the first price.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the second security comprises a convertible security selected from the group comprising a convertible bond security and a convertible preferred stock security.

47. (New) A method for increasing an amount of a first security available to an investor for borrow, the method comprising:

by a second entity,

underwriting an issuance of a second security issued by the first entity;

purchasing a first quantity of the first security issued by a first entity;

entering into a forward purchase contract with the first entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the security to the first entity by a settlement date, wherein the settlement date is a maturity date of the second security issued by the first entity; and

lending a third quantity of the security to the investor.

48. (New) A method for increasing an amount of a first security available to an investor for borrow, the method comprising:

by a second entity,

underwriting an issuance of a second security issued by the first entity;

purchasing a first quantity of the first security issued by a first entity;

entering into a forward purchase contract with the first entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the

security to the first entity by a settlement date, wherein the settlement date is a put date of a second security issued by the first entity; and

lending a third quantity of the security to the investor.

49. (New) A method for increasing an amount of a first security available to an investor for borrow, the method comprising:

by a second entity,

underwriting an issuance of a second security issued by the first entity;

purchasing a first quantity of the first security issued by a first entity;

entering into a forward purchase contract with the first entity, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates the second entity to subsequently deliver a second quantity of the security to the first entity by a settlement date, wherein the settlement date is a call date of the second security issued by the first entity; and

lending a third quantity of the security to the investor.